AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1.   (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article information, comprising:

a usage data collection step in which, ~~when an article has been used,~~ usage data showing [[the]] facts relating to [[the]] usage of ~~that said~~ a plurality of articles ~~article~~ are collected, when said plurality of articles has been used;

a usage history storage step in which [[the]] collected usage data are stored as usage history in a data base;

a usage history provision step in which, ~~while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article,~~ the usage history of a selected article, stored in said data base and selected by a customer from among said plurality of articles, ~~said article stored in said data base~~ is provided to [[a]] the customer via a network, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;

a usage data recollecting step in which said usage data are recollected when said plurality of articles ~~article~~ is used while said plurality of articles ~~article~~ is being put up for sale as [[a]] secondhand articles ~~article, said usage data are recollected~~;

a usage data updating step in which the usage history of said plurality of articles ~~article~~ stored in said data base are updated based on [[the]] recollected usage data; and

an updated usage history provision step in which ~~while said usage history of said article are updated,~~ the updated usage history of said selected article stored in said data base is provided

to the customer via the network, while said usage history of said plurality of articles are updated,

wherein said usage data comprise comprises operation data that shows show amounts an amount of work done by said plurality of articles article.

2. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data collection step includes a step for collecting usage data for said plurality of articles article by communicating with said plurality of articles article from a remote location away from said plurality of articles article.

3. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising:

a service data collection step in which, when said article has been serviced, service data that show shows the facts relating to [[the]] service of said plurality of articles article are collected, when said plurality of articles has been serviced;

a service history storage step in which [[the]] collected service data are stored as service history in said data base; and

a service history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, the service history for said selected article stored in said data base is provided to the [[a]] customer via said [[a]] network, when said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles.

4. (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data

collection step, said usage history storage step, and said usage history provision step are conducted simultaneously in parallel so that said plurality of articles an article still in use can be put up for sale as [[a]] secondhand articles article.

5.   (Cancelled)

6.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 1, wherein said usage data includes photographic data showing actual images of said plurality of articles article.

7.   (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 1 and 3, further comprising a download step of downloading the usage history or service history for said plurality of articles article, which are stored in said data base, to a terminal used by said customer via [[a]] the network.

8.   (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article information, comprising:

a current state data collecting step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, current state data that show shows the a current state of a plurality of articles an article are collected at intervals, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;

a current state data storage step in which [[the]] collected current state data are stored in

said data base;

a current state data provision step in which, ~~while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article,~~ the current state data for <u>a selected article, stored in said data base and selected by a customer from among said plurality of articles,</u> ~~said article stored in said data base~~ are provided to [[a]] <u>the</u> customer via a network<u>, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles</u>;

a current state data recollecting step in which <u>said current state data of said plurality of articles are recollected,</u> when said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ is used while said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ is being put up for sale as [[a]] secondhand <u>articles</u> ~~article, said current state of said article are recollected~~;

a current state data updating step in which the current state data for said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ stored in said data base are updated based on [[the]] recollected usage data; and

an updated current state data provision step in which, ~~while said current state data for said article are updated, the~~ updated current state data for said <u>selected</u> article stored in said data base is provided to the customer via the network<u>, while said current state data for said plurality of articles are updated</u>;

wherein said current state data <u>comprise</u> ~~comprises~~ article location and cumulative operating hours of said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~.

9.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, wherein said current state data collection step includes a step for collecting current state data for said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~

by communicating with said plurality of articles ~~article~~ from a remote location away from said plurality of articles ~~article~~.

10.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 8, further comprising:

a service data collection step in which~~, when said article has been serviced,~~ service data that show ~~shows the~~ facts relating to [[the]] service of said plurality of articles ~~article~~ are collected, when said plurality of articles has been serviced;

a service history storage step in which [[the]] collected service data are stored as service history in said data base; and

a service history provision step in which~~, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article,~~ the service history for said selected article stored in said data base is provided to the [[a]] customer via said [[a]] network, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles.

11.   (Currently Amended) A method performed by a computer system for providing secondhand article information comprising:

a usage data collection step in which~~, when an article has been used,~~ usage data showing [[the]] facts relating to [[the]] usage of ~~that said~~ a plurality of articles ~~article~~ are collected, when said plurality of articles has been used;

a usage history storage step in which [[the]] collected usage data are stored as usage history in a data base;

a current state data collecting step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, current state data that show shows the a current state of said plurality of articles article are collected at intervals, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;

a current state data storage step in which [[the]] collected current state data are stored in said data base;

a current state data provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, the current state data for a selected article, stored in said data base and selected by a customer from among said plurality of articles, said article stored in said data base is provided to the [[a]] customer via a network, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;

a usage history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as secondhand article, the usage history of said selected article stored in said data base is provided to the [[a]] customer via the [[a]] network, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale as secondhand articles;

a usage data recollecting step in which said usage data are recollected, when said plurality of articles article is used while said plurality of articles article is being put up for sale as [[a]] secondhand articles article, said usage data are recollected;

a usage data updating step in which the usage history of said plurality of articles article stored in said data base are updated based on [[the]] recollected usage data;

an updated usage history provision step in which, while said usage history of said article

~~are updated,~~ the updated usage history of said selected article stored in said data base is provided to the customer via the network, <u>while said usage history of said plurality of articles is updated</u>;

a current state data recollecting step in which <u>said current state data of said plurality of articles are recollected</u> when said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ is used while said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ is being put up for sale as [[a]] secondhand <u>articles</u> ~~article, said current state of said article are recollected~~;

a current state data updating step in which the current state data for said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ stored in said data base are updated based on the recollected usage data; and

an updated current state data provision step in which, ~~while said current state data for said article are updated, the~~ updated current state data for said <u>selected</u> article stored in said data base is provided to the customer via the network, <u>while said current state data for said plurality of articles are updated</u>,

wherein said usage data <u>comprise</u> ~~comprises~~ operation data that <u>show amounts</u> ~~shows an amount~~ of work done by said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~, and

wherein said current state data <u>comprise</u> ~~comprises~~ article location and cumulative operating hours of said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~.

12.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said usage data collection step or current state data collection step includes a step for collecting usage data or current state data for said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ by communicating with said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ from a remote location away from said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~.

13.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, further comprising:

a service data collection step in which, when said article has been serviced, service data

that show shows the facts relating to [[the]] service of said plurality of articles article are

collected, when said plurality of articles has been serviced;

a service history storage step in which [[the]] collected service data are stored as service

history in said data base; and

a service history provision step in which, while said article is being put up for sale as a

secondhand article, the service history for said selected article stored in said data base is provided

to [[a]] the customer via [[a]] said network, while said plurality of articles is being put up for sale

as secondhand articles.

14.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said usage data

collection step, said usage history storage step, and said usage history provision step are

conducted simultaneously in parallel so that said plurality of articles an article still in use can be

put up for sale as [[a]] secondhand articles article.

15.   (Original) The method according to claim 11, further comprising a step of updating said

current state data within said data base based on collected said usage data.

16.   (Cancelled)

17.   (Currently Amended) The method according to claim 11, wherein said usage data includes photographic data showing actual images of said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~.

18.   (Currently Amended) The method according to any one of claims 11 and 13, further comprising a download step of downloading the usage history or service history for said <u>plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~, which are stored in said data base, to a terminal used by said customer via <u>said</u> [[a]] network.

19.   (Currently Amended) A computer system for providing information about secondhand articles, comprising:

usage data collection means <u>for</u> ~~that, when said article has been used,~~ collecting ~~collects~~ usage data that <u>show</u> ~~shows the~~ facts relating [[the]] usage of [[the]] <u>a plurality of articles</u> ~~article~~ <u>when said plurality of articles has been used</u>;

a data base;

usage history storage means <u>for storing</u> ~~that stores~~ [[the]] collected usage data as usage history on said data base;

usage history provision means <u>for</u> ~~that, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article,~~ <u>providing</u> ~~provides~~ the usage history for <u>a selected article, stored in said data base and selected by a customer from among said plurality of articles,</u> ~~said article stored in said data base~~ to [[a]] <u>the</u> customer via a network<u>, while said plurality of articles is being put up for</u>

sale as secondhand articles; and

usage data updating means for updating that updates the usage history of said plurality of articles article stored on said data base based on the collected usage data; wherein,

said usage data collecting means recollects said usage data of said plurality of articles article when said plurality of articles article is used while said plurality of articles article is being put up for sale as [[a]] secondhand articles article;

said usage data updating means updates the usage history of said plurality of articles article stored in said data base; and

said usage history provision means provides the customer via the network with the updated usage history of said selected article stored in said data base,

wherein said usage data comprise comprises operation data that show amounts shows an amount of work done by said plurality of articles article.

20.   (Currently Amended): The system according to claim 19, further comprising:

service data collection means for collecting that, when said article has been serviced, collects service data that show shows the facts relating to [[the]] service of the plurality of articles article when said plurality of articles has been serviced;

service history storage means for storing that stores [[the]] collected service data as service history on said data base; and

service history provision means for providing that, while said article is being put up for sale as a secondhand article, provides the service history for said selected article stored in said

data base to [[a]] the customer via [[a]] the network when said plurality of articles is being put up

for sale as secondhand articles.